



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 18th December 2022



On a Journey

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need to use the Hearing Loop.

Today's service is being led by: **The Junior Church**
The Organ is played by: **Pam Vaughn**

It is a joy to welcome you to this service!

If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join regularly with us in our Sunday worship and other activities – see www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

Feel free to spend time before worship for quiet preparation, especially once the music begins. We light a candle at the start of the service to remind us all of Christ's message of peace.

The Reformed Church recognises God's Word as its supreme authority and **you are asked to stand as the Bible is brought in at the start of worship, and again as the Bible is taken out after the blessing.**

We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, outdoors, at work, school; in all places.

Welcome & Notices

Lighting the peace candle

Lighting the 4th Advent Candle

Mary

(Four candles are lit)

Leader: *We light this candle for all God-bearers,
saying 'yes' to God's challenge,
accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.*

All: **GOD, AS WE WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE,
GIVE LIGHT, GIVE HOPE**

Sing: **Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
- cross and glory;
empty tomb!**
(Tune: 'Angel Voices')

Our Adventure – feedback on the week.

Hymn: Tell out my soul R&S 740

Prayers of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
with apologies for interruption.

Bible Reading; Luke 2 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first

registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Journey One – a preparation

Song: Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road,
Got to keep on plodding onwards, with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, thro' the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near
There are wise men, waiting for a sign to bring them here.
Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed...

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

Journey Two – a realisation

Poem by Geoffrey Rust.

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound R&S 137

Bible Reading Matthew 2 1-6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^a from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^b and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the

Messiah^d was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd^d my people Israel."

Journey Three – a sensory meditation including prayers for others and ourselves.

Please feel welcome to join in the prayer journey around the church to different 'stations. There will be lots to experience! However, if you prefer to stay in the pew just indicate and materials to help with the meditation will be brought to you and you will certainly be able to hear what is going on!

Offertory and Offertory Prayer

Hymn: See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw R&S 151

Blessing and Dismissal

Coming up...

Prayers for Peace

The Sanctuary **Tuesday 20th December, 12-1pm**

WarmSpace

Open to all! **Every Thursday 3:30-6:30pm**

United Prayer Time - Zoom

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 **Every Friday, 6pm**

Do you love to sing?

Be part of our Candlelight Service singing group. All ages and abilities welcome! Second rehearsal (no problem if you missed the first)

Friday 23rd December 2022, 7:30-8:30pm

Christmas Eve Carol service - followed by festive refreshments 6.30 pm

Christmas Day - We are worshipping with South Croydon United Church at 9.30am so there will be **NO SERVICE AT ST PAULS**

For all future events and activities please see our website

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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